

## MI Child Support Formula - Comments on Child Support Changes

---

**From:** Denice Gerstenberg <dgerstenberg@sterling-heights.net>  
**To:** <mcsf@courts.mi.gov>  
**Date:** 6/25/2003 4:28 PM  
**Subject:** Comments on Child Support Changes

---

### - ADM 2003-22-2 Calculation of Child Support before Spousal Support

Child support should be deducted from income before federal, local and state taxes, just like alimony.

For example, say I am paying \$100 per week child support. I am in the 30% tax bracket. When you take the \$100 out of my check after taxes, I am actually paying \$130 per week. My ex is receiving \$100 per week tax free. The paying parent should not have to shoulder the whole tax burden.

### 2003-22-10

If the non-custodial parent wants at least 52 overnights, the custodial parent should have no power to obstruct that.

### General Comments

The court needs to enforce visitation. My husband's ex-wife has repeatedly interfered/denied my husband visitation. Complaints to the Friend of Court result in a letter that tells her not to do it again. Taking her to court results in nothing other than costing money - the court never punishes her. The ex-wife then realizes that she can get away with whatever she wants and the situation gets worse. People complain about deadbeat dads, yet dads who are trying to see their kids get no help from the court.

The court should specify who is going to take care of costs for clothing, shoes, school supplies, sports camps, etc. The custodial parent is not always the one who does this. For example, a very involved-with-the-kids dad pays child support to a very uninvolved ex-wife. The dad not only pays child support, but pays for all clothing, shoes, school supplies, sports camps, etc. But the dad gets no credit for doing so. There should be something that requires each party to pay for a portion of these expenses.

The person paying the child support should get the tax deductions.

Denice A. Gerstenberg  
38434 Asbury Park  
Clinton Township, MI 48036  
Phone 586 493-9101